

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 7, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President Jim SNYDER.

**Present:**

Jim SNYDER	President
David GIORGI	Vice President (exited the meeting at 10:45 AM)
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Marcus MASINI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DEPAOLI	Legal Counsel
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

**Public Present:**

George Lindesmith	Silas Adams, WBC	Tim Bardsley, NOAA
Ed Ryan	Chad Walling, NSE	Sarah Fitchner, NSE
Ryan Stanton	Paul Reder	

**1. Public Comment:**

None presented.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum:**

All Board Members were present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the November 7, 2018 Regular meeting.**

Director MASINI made a motion to approve the minutes; Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**4. Water Master's Report:**

Joanne reported both reservoirs are currently 38% full; Bridgeport Reservoir has 16,250 acre-feet and Topaz has 23,090 acre-feet. Current releases are 24cfs from Bridgeport and 10.9cfs from Topaz. Recent storms helped the basin reach 140% of average SWE and 109% of average for precipitation. Joanne reported that both radials at the weir are broken and she has been working with Isaac, NDOW, on getting estimates to repair and/or replace them. There is currently 42 feet of stock water running through the system— 18 in Smith Valley, 18 in the East, 5 in the West and 1 in the Tunnel Section.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI gave the Treasurer's report as of November 30, 2018:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 243,808.91
Cash in Money Market	\$1,448,613.84
Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,242,660.75</u>

Total \$2,935,083.50

B. **Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment.**

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
120468	11/5/2018	PERS Administrative Fund	1,243.24
120469	11/7/2018	AFLAC	265.93
120470	11/7/2018	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 1423	12,000.00
120471	11/7/2018	Frontier	282.47
120472	11/7/2018	Sticks and Stones Buildings	171.59
120473	11/7/2018	AT&T Mobility	174.26
120474	11/7/2018	Kent's Supply Center, Inc.	4,611.16
120475	11/7/2018	The Paul Laxalt Group	6,500.00
120476	11/7/2018	Mason Valley Quicknet	410.00
120477	11/7/2018	True Value	29.06
120478	11/7/2018	PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc.	1,208.48
120479	11/7/2018	Public Employees' Benefits	803.29
120480	11/7/2018	Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	150.00
120481	11/7/2018	Quill	292.38
120482	11/7/2018	Jim Menesini Petroleum	956.59
120483	11/7/2018	NV Energy	198.81
120484	11/7/2018	Southwest Gas Corporation	58.10
120486	11/7/2018	Xerox Financial Services	139.44
120487	11/7/2018	D & S Waste Removal	100.00
120488	11/13/2018	PERS Administrative Fund	3.49
120489	11/14/2018	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	1,404.50
120490	11/14/2018	Giomi, Inc.	78.27
120491	11/14/2018	AT&T	139.77
120492	11/14/2018	John Deere Credit	113.42
120493	11/14/2018	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	530.00
120494	11/14/2018	Lyon County Recorder	26.18
120495	11/14/2018	PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc.	708.55
120496	11/14/2018	Quill	162.84

120497	11/14/2018	California Dept. of Water	7,788.85
120498	11/14/2018	Verizon Wireless	1,301.23
120499	11/14/2018	Wells Fargo Card Services	3,778.74
120500	11/14/2018	Woodburn & Wedge	24,154.50
120501	11/14/2018	City of Yerington	139.50
120502	11/14/2018	Desert Engineering	513.98
120503	11/14/2018	Sierra Office Solutions	85.60
120504	11/27/2018	USBWC	29,217.07
120505	11/28/2018	Associated Concrete Pumping	2,478.16
120506	11/28/2018	MBK Engineers	1,791.08
120507	11/28/2018	MF Barcellos	2,163.53
120508	11/28/2018	PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc.	108.50
120509	11/28/2018	Quill	758.30
120510	11/28/2018	NV Energy	13.59
120511	11/28/2018	Standard Insurance Company	217.16
120512	11/28/2018	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	259.40
120513	11/28/2018	White Cap Construction Supply	82.98
120514	11/28/2018	Xerox Financial Services	164.44
120515	11/28/2018	HomeTown Health	5,248.78
120516	11/28/2018	Yerington Ready Mix	4,596.73
PAYROLL		NOVEMBER PAYROLL	29,146.33

**Total Bills & Payroll \$ 146,770.27**

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to approve the bills for November 2018; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN advised the current reservoir pools are:

Bridgeport 16,250 acre-feet (38% capacity)

Topaz 23,090 acre-feet (38% capacity)

GM BRYAN advised the shop crew is working on regular scheduled repairs and maintenance on the canals and drains. The crew has completed the main pipeline on Lateral A and the smaller pipe into the Weaver takeout. Footings should be

poured next week, and the walls will be soon after. Work on the automation of the Topaz Diversion is continuing.

GM BRYAN reported there is no update on the BOR studies other than he spoke to a BOR employee who was going to poke around and hopefully get an update. The hold up is the cultural study.

GM BRYAN advised the annual dam inspections were November 27<sup>th</sup>. Nevada Safety Dams inspected the Topaz Diversion and Gatehouse. The report came back this week and included recommendations. Willows and debris must be removed from the face of the dam and when they are removed, they are piled up. This spring we will work with property owners and Antelope Valley Fire Department to burn the piles. Our sprayer is no longer in service and a new sprayer will be discussed in the next few months as it is imperative to keep the vegetation down. GM BRYAN advised he has not heard from California Safety Dams, but when they schedule an inspection the Board will be notified.

GM BRYAN attended a Nevada Water Law Conference on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> where Gordon spoke on the Mineral County lawsuit. The conference was very informative.

GM BRYAN advised last week he received correspondence from the Yerington Paiute Tribe regarding cleaning of the West Drain along Cottonwood Street. The cleaning of the drain is complicated due to a trailer park on one side and Cottonwood Street on the other side- both within the District's easement. The cleaning is on the maintenance list, but collaboration with multiple agencies is needed to ensure safety. Lyon County has provided a water truck in the past. Treasurer NUTI asked how many feet the section is; GM BRYAN advised he is unsure of the measurement, but that section goes from Bridge Street to South Street. Piping of the section would require a very large diameter pipe, but an open channel is not a bad thing in that area. Encroachment is the main problem in maintaining that section.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report:**

Counsel DePAOLI advised Mineral County filed a brief on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Since then, the National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Western Resource Advocates, National Wildlife Federation and the Nevada Wildlife Federation have filed for an amicus brief. Law Professors have filed a motion to file an amicus brief in support of Mineral County today. Gordon expects the Law Professors motions to be like what they have previously filed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. December 4<sup>th</sup> the State of California filed an amicus brief which is very much like the one filed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. Last week the Nevada State Engineer stated it wants to file an amicus brief not in support of either side. On December 4<sup>th</sup> the Walker River Paiute Tribe filed a motion to file a late motion for an amicus brief that piggybacks on the NSE brief due January 25<sup>th</sup>. The assumption is that there will be a briefing by January 25<sup>th</sup> but that may change. Treasurer NUTI questioned if the amicus briefs need to be

responded to; DePAOLI advised he expects to respond to all of them. Treasurer NUTI advised it is concerning that new entities are now joining the show after the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. DePAOLI advised all the parties were at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, but a few entities are joining on our side.

Counsel DePAOLI advised the legislature will be in session on February 4<sup>th</sup> and there are several bills drafted regarding water. AB51 and AB62 are already drafted. AB51 gives the State Engineer authority to adopt regulations related the conjunctive management of ground water and surface water. It is mostly directed toward what is going on with the Humboldt River; not much has happened and it could be there is concern as to the authority of the State Engineer to draft regulations. This bill, as written, would likely fix any issue as to the authority of the State Engineer. AB62 is concerning how much time the State Engineer can initially grant to complete works on a permit and how much time the SE can grant in terms of extensions in time for proofs of beneficial use. The State Engineer could initially give 15 years to file proof of completion of work and extensions of 5 years at a time for beneficial use. There are more to come down the line, but we will have to see where they go.

**6. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the upcoming winter weather and water outlook for 2019 irrigation season.**

Tim BARDSLEY advised there have been improvements since last month, so he is glad he is here at this meeting. Tim advised October was dry, but November is still warm, but precipitation came late and brought the area close to average in precipitation. The Freakout Chart for the next few weeks is calm, with the only orange being the air quality due to the stagnant air. The precipitation prediction for the next few months is that the season will be wet, but the skill is low. The Walker River is in the 50-60 percentile range for observed flows. Tim advised there are new flows and observance tools on the website that allow the user to find information on specific locations and dates. Tim addressed the hazard of the burn areas and flash flooding. Two previous flash flood problems in the Topaz area nearly reached the reservoir and could have impacted water quality. Tim spoke about the recent research and mentioning of a '40-year flood' within the next 4 years and possibly likely this year due to the potential for warm temperatures and an extreme atmospheric river/arc storm. The last major flood was in 1862 but there are not a lot of records on the event.

**7. Update from the Division of Water Resources regarding groundwater pumping and upcoming field work schedules.**

Chad WALLING reported the readings through November are 19,800 acre-feet in Smith Valley and 42,800 acre-feet in Mason Valley. Both numbers were up approximately 1,000 acre-feet per valley as the numbers tapered off at the end of the irrigation season. The numbers are not final and are likely to increase as more wells are read. To compare numbers, 2016 was a similar water year and the pumping numbers were approximately 26,000 acre-feet in SV and approximately 59,000 in Mason Valley for irrigation only. The fall water level measurements were collected in November and are available on the website; rough statistics compared to last year are Smith Valley averaged a 2' decrease and a median of 1' decrease. Mason Valley averaged a .3' drop and a median of .4' drop from last fall.

Chad and his office will start completing inventory on other manners of use soon and will have an inventory report soon.

**8. Update by Walker Basin Conservancy on activities related to the Walker Basin Restoration Program, including Acquisitions and Conservation and Stewardship Activities.**

Silas ADAMS reported a there are positions open for Conservation Techs, 6-12-month AmeriCorps and a Nursery Manager. There is a high demand for revegetation due to the California and Nevada fires.

**9. Update by Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (BRO) on activities related to the Bridgeport Watershed Approach.**

GM BRYAN advised he does not have anything to report. He assumes they are waiting for the NRCS and Lahontan Water Control Board updates.

**10. Discussion and consideration of District position, if any, regarding proposal by Paul Reder to Douglas County by Bass Camp Festival Music, Inc. and PR Entertainment, Inc. to hold Bass Camp Music Festival at Douglas County Park at Topaz Reservoir July 25 through July 29, 2019.**

Counsel DePAOLI advised the park is leased to Douglas County and they have a very comprehensive outdoor festival ordinance that reviews and licenses outdoor festivals. The festival will have to go through that process and Douglas County will have to review it in great detail before approving or denying the festival. President SNYDER asked DePAOLI if he had any concerns with the proposal. DePAOLI advised it is really more of a question for Douglas County, but he would like to see the District included on any liability policy the County requires and included as one of the indemnified policies. The lease itself requires liability insurance and indemnity from the County. Director MASINI made a motion that the District's position supports the County pursuant to the lease agreement and Douglas County ordinance on outdoor festivals; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**11. Discussion and consideration of possible financial contribution from the Walker River Irrigation District's Reservoir Fund to the Mason Valley Conservation District for purchasing a new pump for Yerington Dredge not to exceed \$7,500 to help make it operational.**

GM BRYAN advised Ed RYAN provided an email from the engineer as requested by the Board at the November meeting. Ed provided a background of the dredge purchase, intention and expectation and stated in order to proceed with the expectations, a new pump is required. Ed stated the request stands at seeking \$7500 from WRID as he has contacted Walker Basin Conservancy, Lyon County and the City of Yerington for the additional \$4500. The City of Yerington has contributed a significant amount already, but the question is still being asked. The engineer of the pump has 'guaranteed' the pump will be sufficient in pumping the results promised in the initial purchase. President SNYDER questioned if the pump is an actual dredge pump; Ed stated it is a dredge pump and has an impeller designed to pull the material. Vice President GIORGI questioned what yardage is expected; Ed advised 90 tons per hour. GIORGI questioned the guarantee on the pump. Ed advised

the pump is a current production model that has a suction liner to protect wearing and the liner replacement is in the \$100s instead of \$1000s. President SNYDER questioned where the material is going to be stored; Ed reported Tom Reviglio has plans for the material as it will be deposited onto his land. Director MASINI questioned if the natural flow would fill in the cylinders in the sand as the material is pumped; Ed stated the natural flow would be sufficient in filling in the cylinder and that he is exploring the option of making the dredge mobile. Vice President GIORGI inquired whether the engineer has been to the dredge in person to verify what is needed; Ed stated all communication has been done via pictures and phone. GM BRYAN stated the District typically spends a significant amount of time and funds by removing sand multiple times per year at the weir and, if the pump works, the benefit far outweighs the cost of the pump. Treasurer NUTI questioned if the funds can be pulled from the East and West Drain funds; GM BRYAN stated it is doable since the drains empty into the river system near the weir. Gordon DePAOLI stated the way the agenda item is worded, the decision to make the contribution is what is to be decided at this meeting. If needed, the disbursement of funds can be put on a future agenda. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the funding; Director MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**12. Director Comments:**

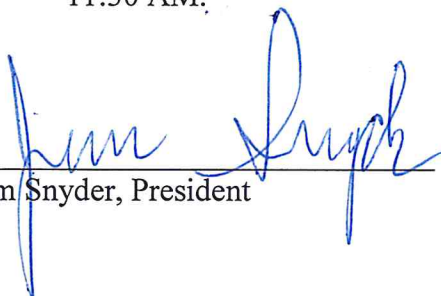
Regarding the State Engineer's intent to file an amicus brief, Treasurer NUTI questioned DePAOLI on what he thinks the State Engineer's position would be in filing the motion. DePAOLI advised his understanding is that the State Engineer's Office is looking to advise to the court that the decision is one that affects the entire state and that it could impact the resource and fiscal requirements of the State Engineer's Office. Director MASINI asked if other water districts have been contacted; GM BRYAN advised all water districts in the state have been contacted and seem to be in support of the District.

**13. Public Comment:**

None presented.

**14. Adjournment:**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director MASINI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

  
Jim Snyder, President

  
David Giorgi, Vice President

  
Richard Nuti, Treasurer

  
Dennis Acciari, Director

  
Marcus Masini, Director